



**THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF VALENCIA COLLEGE
REGULAR MEETING**

Minutes

December 4, 2025

Valencia College – East Campus
Building 5, Room 112
and
Zoom Meeting

Members Present

Trustee Michael Sasso, Chair
Trustee Blair Bradley
Trustee Shawn Hindle
Trustee Belinda Kirkegard
Trustee John Martinez
Trustee Tracey Stockwell

Dr. Kathleen Plinske, Secretary of the Board and President of the College

Members Absent

Trustee John Davis, Vice Chair

Call to Order

Chair Sasso called the Regular Meeting of the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College to order at 9:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes,
October 16, 2025,
Regular Meeting**

Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the meeting minutes of the October 16, 2025, Regular Meeting, as presented. Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

President's Report

Dr. Plinske recognized Ms. Tiffany Homler Hawkins, Chief Executive Officer, LYNX, for her partnership. Lynx and Valencia entered into an agreement in 2017 for LYNX to provide bus transportation to Valencia

students and employees at no cost to the riders. This service, provided to Valencia students and staff, is available on all LYNX fixed routes and NeighborLINK routes during all times that LYNX is in service, and bus stops are located on nearly all of the College's campus locations. Dr. Plinske shared that since January 2022, Valencia bus riders have logged more than 1,000,000 rides on LYNX.

Dr. Plinske announced that the Osceola Prosper program was selected as "Floridian of the Year" by Florida Trend Magazine.

Dr. Plinske shared that she attended the Association of Florida Colleges (AFC) Legislative Fly-In on November 4-5, 2025, in Tallahassee. She thanked Trustee Hindle for his attendance and productive participation. The speakers included Commissioner of Education Anastasios Kamoutsas, Kevin O'Farrell, Chancellor, Florida Department of Education's Division of Career and Adult Education, Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida Department of Education, Representative Mike Redondo, and Representative Demi Busatta, Chair of Higher Education Budget Committee. Dr. Plinske stated that all 28 Florida College Presidents are committed in writing to continue to advocate for Florida College System operational funding support through the established funding formula.

Dr. Plinske reported that the Legislative Session starts in January 2026, and anticipated future trips to Tallahassee during next January and February.

Dr. Plinske stated that Valencia has been successful in working with several local partners to advocate for the Florida College System. Dr. Plinske indicated that the local partners include the Orlando Economic Partnership and the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association. She will continue to work with other chambers and associations for their active support.

Dr. Plinske reported that the Florida State Board of Education approved the proposed amendments to Rule 6A-14.092, Textbook and Course Material Affordability and Transparency, at the meeting held on November 13, 2025. The College is reviewing the changes and will comply with the requirements of the revised Rule.

Dr. Plinske announced that Valencia was notified by the Florida Department of Education and the State of Florida that the College has received The Collegiate Purple Star Campus Designation, established by the Florida Legislature, and signed into law by Governor De Santis in June 2023. This official Designation recognizes institutions that demonstrate a commitment to supporting military students as they transition to the college environment.

Dr. Plinske reminded the Board about the College's Commencement

Ceremonies, to be held December 10, 2025, at 12pm and at 4pm, at the UCF Addition Financial Arena.

Dr. Plinske stated that Valencia is looking at another record-breaking Spring enrollment, with a 10% enrollment increase this year, compared to last year at this time. Dr. Plinske thanked the Student Affairs and Academic Affairs teams, for working to build course schedules that respond to student demand.

Faculty Association Report

Ms. Nissa Hopkins, President, Faculty Association, Hopkins shared the rewarding part of student learning outcomes and expressed her positive reflections on what Commencement represents.

Student Government Association Report

Ms. Annese Williams, SGA President, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included a recap of the SGA's recent events, updates/ongoing initiatives, a Student Services survey feedback results, and upcoming events.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

New Business

1. Approval of No Increase to the Student Block Tuition and Fee Rate Schedule for 2026-27: Mr. Oscar Cristancho Mercado, Chief Financial Officer, and Dr. Brandon McKelvey, Executive Vice President, Administrative Services, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Cristancho Mercado shared that the 2026-2027 Student Block Tuition & Fee Rate Schedule is presented for Board consideration and approval. For the thirteenth consecutive year, the proposed Schedule includes no increase in matriculation, technology, student financial aid, student activity, or capital improvement fees. Additionally, the College proposes no changes to laboratory fees, which are user fees representing amounts up to but not exceeding the actual cost of the services and goods provided in those respective classes as needed for an optimal learning experience. These resources include personnel, materials and supplies, and equipment.

A full discussion ensued.

Following the full discussion, Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the 2026-2027 Student Block Tuition, Fee Rate Schedule, and laboratory fees, as presented. Trustee Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Stockwell commended Mr. Cristancho Mercado and Dr. McKelvey, for their work.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Kirkegaard and seconded by Trustee Martinez to consider, accept, and approve items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 under New Business in the manner of a consent agenda. The Board unanimously approved the following items under New Business in the consent agenda, as recommended:

- 2. Approval of the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar**
- 3. Award of ITB 2026-09, Graduation Diplomas and Supplies**
- 4. Award of CA 2026-19, Blue Frontier Installation, East Campus, Building 1A**
- 5. Policy Amendments**
 - *Policy 6Hx28: 3C-01 – Total Rewards: Compensation & Hours of Work for Employees of the College*
 - *Policy 6Hx28: 3C-06.1 – Contracts for Instructional, Executive, Senior Administrator, and Administrator Employees*
 - *Policy 6Hx28: 8-12 – Anti-Hazing Policy*
- 6. Additions, Deletions or Modifications of Courses and Programs**
- 7. Property Deletion**

Reports

Dr. Plinske stated that the following report items are detailed in the written materials, which have been distributed to the Board:

- A. Financial Report**
- B. Valencia College Foundation Report**

Strategic Discussion

Dr. Plinske presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included an overview of the College's 2030 Strategic Impact Plan: Transfer Success.

Following her presentation, the Board engaged in a full discussion.

Board Comments

The Board commended Valencia's leadership, faculty, and staff for their work.

Adjourn

Chair Sasso adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:59 a.m.

Secretary

Chair